South Kesteven District Council Licensing Section

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Fact Sheet BINGO IN VILLAGE HALLS

Organisations such as village halls and community centres that wish to provide bingo for charitable purposes (e.g. to raise funds for maintenance of the village hall) may do so under Part 14 of the Gambling Act 2005. However the bingo may only take place at events where none of the proceeds from the event itself will be used for any form of private gain.

There are two types of charitable / non-commercial bingo:

Prize Gaming: where the prizes are put up in advance, and are not dependent on the number of players taking part or the amount of money staked. There are no limits on stakes, prizes, participation fees or other charges for this type of gaming.

Equal Chance Gaming: where the amount or value of the prizes varies according to the number of players who participate and/or the amount of money they stake. Here a single payment of £8 per day may be charged to cover admission, stakes and any other charges for playing. The total value of prizes must not exceed £600 in one day. Where an event is the final one of a series in which all of the players have previously taken part, a higher prize fund of no more than £900 is permitted.

In all cases, it is important to remember that the players participating in the bingo must be told what "good cause" is to benefit from the profits from the gaming.

Should you require any further information regarding bingo do not hesitate to contact the Licensing Team on 01474 40 60 80. Alternatively you may wish to visit the Gambling Commission's website at www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk or the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) website at www.culture.gov.uk.